

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00563 260725Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 251448Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 563

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IS, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 247 (B) AMMAN 47

1. CONGEN JERUSALEM'S SUGGESTION (REF A) THAT ISRAEL MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ITS MANEUVERS NEAR THE SYRIAN ARMISTICE LINES, AND THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA MIGHT EVENTUALLY RECIPROCATATE, STRIKES US AN IDEA WORTH CONSIDERING, AND THE SAME THING CAN BE SAID FOR EMBASSY AMMAN'S RESPONSE RE A SIMILAR ISRAELI-JORDANIAN ARRANGEMENT. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS BUT WE WOULD THINK THAT THE KEY TO PERES' AGREEMENT TO NOTIFY EGYPT OF MAJOR MANEUVERS LAY IN THE FACT THAT THE EGYPTIANS MADE THE REQUEST, ALBEIT THROUGH SIILASVUO. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WONDER WHETHER PERES ASKED FOR ANY SORT OF RECIPROCITY OR QUID PRO QUO. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IN THIS AREA AN ISRAELI WOULD GIVE SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

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2. IN THE CASES OF SYRIA AND JORDAN, THE MILITARY VALUE OF NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS THAN THAT FOR EGYPT, GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF ANY BUFFER SUCH AS THE SINAI, BECAUSE ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD BE AWARE THAT THE SYRIANS AND JORDANIANS WOULD HAVE LESS TIME TO REACT IF THE REPORTED MOVEMENTS

TURNED OUT TO BE PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTILE ACTION RATHER THAN MANEUVERS. ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IN THE OTHER DIRECTION WOULD HARDLY AFFECT ISRAELI ALERTNESS (E.G., TO A SURPRISE ATTACK CONCEALED BY MANEUVERS ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE), AND PRESUMABLY THE SAME THING WOULD OBTAIN ON THE OTHER SIDE--AND APPARENTLY ALREADY DOES FOR THE EGYPTIANS. ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY VALUE OF RECIPROCAL NOTIFICATIONS MIGHT BE REDUCED, THE POLITICAL VALUE WOULD REMAIN--SO LONG AS THE NOTIFICATIONS REMAINED CREDIBLE--AND WE BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS WOULD PROBABLY AGREE, PROVIDING THE SYRIANS AND/OR JORDANIANS WOULD BE INTERESTED. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THIS SUBJECT AS ONE WHICH MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE EXPLORED WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT NEXT MONTH.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS PROBABLY AWARE, THERE WERE DIVISION LEVEL ISRAELI MANEUVERS IN THE GOLAN IN DECEMBER AND THE SYRIANS DID NOT REACT. ALSO, THERE ARE TO BE BRIGADE LEVEL EXERCISES IN THE JORDAN VALLEY FEBRUARY 7 AND 8 (SEE IR 6849 0504 76).
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Message Attributes

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